

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A device retrieving apparatus that retrieves a device mapped to a desired person among a plurality of devices present on a network, said device retrieving apparatus comprising:

a display unit having a screen;

an input unit that is used to externally input an instruction; and

an application unit,

said application unit causing individual symbols corresponding to individuals and device symbols corresponding to devices to be displayed on the screen of said display unit;

said application unit, when an instruction is given externally via said input unit to map a desired first device symbol among the device symbols displayed on the screen to a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired person, specifying an individual description of the desired person corresponding to the mapped specific individual symbol as a specific individual description, gaining access to a database that is present in a server connected to the network, obtaining a device description mapped to the specific individual description out of mapping information, which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network, and causing at least one of the obtained device description and a second device symbol representing a device expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ The device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 3, further comprising:

a communications path abstraction unit that removes a difference in control procedure due to a type of communications path, which connects said device retrieving apparatus with a device represented by the first device symbol, so as to provide said application unit with an identical control environment, which does not depend upon the type of ~~said~~ communications path,

said application unit gaining access to the device via said communications path abstraction unit, and

said application unit, in the case where the device keeps data, causing data symbols representing respective data kept in the device to be displayed in a specific area on the screen of said display unit, which is different from an area in which the at least one of the obtained device description and ~~the~~ corresponding second device symbol is displayed.

5-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ The device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 3, the mapping information including individual positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to individuals to ~~the~~ individual descriptions and device positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to devices to ~~the~~ device descriptions, and

said application unit specifying a position mapped to the specific individual description from the individual positions-related information, reading a device description mapped to the specified position out of the device positions-related information, and obtaining the read-out device description as the device description mapped to the specific individual description.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~The device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 4, the mapping information including individual positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to individuals to ~~the~~ individual descriptions and device positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to devices to ~~the~~ device descriptions, and

said application unit specifying a position mapped to the specific individual description from the individual positions-related information, reading a device description mapped to the specified position out of the device positions-related information, and obtaining the read-out device description as the device description mapped to the specific individual description.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~The device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 3, said application unit, when an individual description of the desired person is externally input as a specific individual description via said input unit, gaining access to a database that is present in said server, obtaining a device description mapped to the input specific individual description out of mapping information, which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network, and causing the at least one of the obtained device description ~~and~~ and corresponding second device symbol representing a ~~device~~the device expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~The device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 3, said application unit, when an instruction is given externally via said input unit to select a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired person among the individual symbols displayed on the screen, specifying an individual description of the desired person corresponding to the selected specific individual symbol as a specific

individual description, gaining access to a database that is present in said server, obtaining a device description mapped to the specific individual description out of mapping information, which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network, and causing the at least one of the obtained device description ~~and~~ and corresponding second device symbol representing ~~a device~~ the device expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit.

17-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A device retrieving apparatus that retrieves a device mapped to a desired person among a plurality of devices present on a network, said device retrieving apparatus comprising:

a display unit having a screen;

an input unit that is used to externally input an instruction; and

a control unit,

said control unit causing individual symbols corresponding to individuals and device symbols corresponding to devices to be displayed on the screen of said display unit,

said control unit, when an instruction is given externally via said input unit to map a desired first device symbol among the device symbols displayed on the screen to a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired person, specifying an individual description of the desired person corresponding to the mapped specific individual symbol as a specific individual description, gaining access to a database that is present in an apparatus connected to the network or in said device retrieving apparatus, obtaining a device description mapped to the specific individual description out of mapping information, which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network, and causing at least

one of the obtained device description and a second device symbol representing a device expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~The device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 21, said control unit, in the case where a device represented by the first device symbol keeps data, causing data symbols representing respective data kept in the device to be displayed in a specific area on the screen of said display unit, which is different from an area in which the at least one of the obtained device description and ~~the~~-corresponding second device symbol is displayed.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~The device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 21, the mapping information including individual positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to individuals to ~~the~~-individual descriptions and device positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to ~~the~~-device descriptions, and

said control unit specifying a position mapped to the specific individual description from the individual positions-related information, reading a device description mapped to the specified position out of the device positions-related information, and obtaining the read-out device description as the device description mapped to the specific individual description.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~The device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 22, the mapping information including individual positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to individuals to ~~the~~-individual descriptions and device positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to devices to ~~the~~-device descriptions, and

said control unit specifying a position mapped to the specific individual description from the individual positions-related information, reading a device description mapped to the specified position out of the device positions-related information, and obtaining the read-out device description as the device description mapped to the specific individual description.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~The device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 21, said control unit, when an individual description of the desired person is externally input as a specific individual description via said input unit, gaining access to a database that is present in an apparatus connected to the network or in said device retrieving apparatus, obtaining a device description mapped to the input specific individual description out of mapping information, which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network, and causing the at least one of the obtained device description ~~and~~ and corresponding second device symbol representing ~~a device~~the device expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~The device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 21, said control unit, when an instruction is given externally via said input unit to select a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired person among the individual symbols displayed on the screen, specifying an individual description of the desired person corresponding to the selected specific individual symbol as a specific individual description, gaining access to a database that is present in an apparatus connected to the network or in said device retrieving apparatus, obtaining a device description mapped to the specific individual description out of mapping information, which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network, and causing the at least one of the obtained device description

~~and~~ and corresponding second device symbol representing ~~a device~~ the device expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit.

27. (New) A device controller that is capable of controlling a first device and at least one second device mapped to a desired person, said device controller comprising:

an input unit that inputs an external instruction; and

a user interface display control unit that controls a display unit to display on a screen of the display unit a first device symbol corresponding to the first device and a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired person,

wherein, when the first device symbol is associated with the specific individual symbol with a drag-and-drip technique based on external instruction input via said input unit, said user interface display control unit controls the display unit to display substantially simultaneously but separately in a first area and in a second area on the screen a data symbol corresponding to data associated with the first device and a device symbol corresponding to each of the at least one second device mapped to the desired person.

28. (New) A device controller in accordance with claim 27, wherein one of the first device and the second device is an input device that is capable of at least inputting information, and the other is an output device that is capable of at least outputting information.

29. (New) A method of displaying a user interface on a screen of a display unit to enable operation of a first device and at least one second device mapped to a desired person, said method comprising:

displaying on the screen of the display unit a first device symbol corresponding to the first device and a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired person;

associating the first device symbol with the specific individual symbol with a drag-and-drop technique; and

displaying substantially simultaneously but separately in a first area and in a second area on the screen a data symbol corresponding to data associated with the first device and a device symbol corresponding to one of the at least one second device mapped to the desired person.

30. (New) A computer-readable recording medium in which a specific computer program is recorded, the specific computer program causing a user interface to be displayed on a screen of a display unit connected with a computer, the user interface enabling operation of a first device and at least one second device mapped to a desired person, the specific computer program causing the computer to perform the functions of:

displaying on the screen of the display unit a first device symbol corresponding to the first device and a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired person;

associating the first device symbol with the specific individual symbol with a drag-and-drop technique based on an input instruction; and

displaying substantially simultaneously but separately in a first area and in a second area on the screen of the display unit a data symbol corresponding to data associated with the first device and a device symbol corresponding to one of the at least one second device mapped to the desired person.